

LITTLE YARNS ABOUT FILMS, STARS, PLAYS AND LIFE IN MOVIES

BY JAMES W. DEAN.

NEW YORK, May 27.—Where are the days of slap-stick comedy? Those days are over, all over now—to paraphrase a popular ditty. At least, it seems so from a perusal of the releases for the first five months of this year.

Chaplin is no longer a slap-stick comedian. His last comedy, "Pay Day," contained about as much slap-stick as any of his earlier ones, but the public now looks upon him as an artist and watches his work in that attitude. The man and not the act is the attraction.

The same holds true for Harold Lloyd.

Lloyd Hamilton now has reached the dignity of being his own producer. That means he has been accepted as an artist.

Larry Semon, who has wrought a name as a comedian chiefly through mechanical artifices and revisions of old gags and not through his mimetic ability or personality, now aspires to do feature productions. He has Buster Keaton, who has as droll and distinctive a visage as any that ever faced the camera, seems content to go on creating mirth through the old-fashioned clown stuff.

The one comedian who goes on and on grinding out successful comedies without much attention to the art of the cinema or the psychology of laughs is Snub Pollard. He "does his stuff" in his burlesque mustache and sloppy make-up, with the idea of giving the exhibitor a comedy that will satisfy the public and apparently with no idea of climbing out of the ruck of mediocrity.

The Sennett comedies have not advanced with the times. They are still of the vintage of 1916. This probably is due to Sennett turning his attention to feature productions, several of which have reached a high excellence.

The passing of the crude comic is due in a large measure to the popularity achieved by Will Rogers in feature comedies ("Doubtful for Romeo," "One Glorious Day" and earlier ones). Farce comedies like "Red Hot Romance" and "Reported Missing" also are crowding the rough comic off the screen. They benefit by attention to story interest and production detail.

A POLLARD COMIC.

"Light Showers" is a typical Snub Pollard comic. It is one of those affairs in which water sprouts from unexpected places, hitting the star and others in the cast.

Pollard's wife tells him to get vegetables out of the yard. It is flooded. Pollard gets them on a fishing line. He milks a cow standing hip deep in water. He puts the cat out by floating it out the door in a roasting pan.

There is ingenuity in the "gags" employed in this film, but it remains mediocre because of lack of story interest and mimetic ability of the star and cast.

GRIFFITH'S NEXT.

D. W. Griffith is ready to film a new story, as yet untitled. It will feature Carol Dempster, heroine of "Dream Street," and John Barrymore's leading lady in "Sherlock Holmes." Griffith probably will complete the remaining three pictures under his contract with United Artists before beginning the filming of his picture depicting the history of the world.

AT STUDIO KEYHOLES.

Mayron Ave is playing the feminine lead in a comedy feature being made by G. M. Anderson.

Clarence Badger will direct Hobart Bosworth in his next. A sea story of course.

The first of a series of comedies featuring Roy Atwell is "Cured by Radio."

Johnny Jones is to be starred in a new series of two-reel comedies. The first is "Supply and Demand."

William Farnum's next picture will be taken at Lake Champlain.

Sada Cowan, who has written a number of scenarios for American pictures, is now in Berlin writing a story to be filmed by Dimitri Buchowetzki.

Universal has bought Jack London's "The Abyssal Brute," as a starring vehicle for Frank Mayo or Reginald Denny.

Jack Pickford filmed the Kentucky Derby for a scene of his next picture, "Garrison's Finish." He will also take a blood curdling Manhattan Handicap at Belmont.

S. S. S. Fills Out Hollow Cheeks, Thin Limbs!



Man and woman—whether you will ever build yourself up to your normal, just-right weight depends on the number of blood-cells in your blood. There all there is to it. It's a scientific fact. If your blood-cell factory isn't working right, you will be run-down, thin, your blood will be in disorder, and perhaps your face will be broken out with pimples, blackheads and eruptions. S. S. S. keeps your blood-cell factory working full time. It helps build new blood-cells. That's why S. S. S. builds up thin, run-down people, it puts firm flesh on your bones, it rounds out your face, arms, neck, limbs, the whole body. It puts the "pink" in your cheeks. It takes the hollowness from the eyes, and it fools Father Time by smoothing out wrinkles in men and women by "plumping" them up. S. S. S. is a remarkable blood-purifier. While you are getting plump, your skin eruptions, pimples, blackheads, acne, rheumatism, rash, tetter, blotches are being removed. The medicinal ingredients of S. S. S. are guaranteed purely vegetable. S. S. S. is sold at all drug stores, in two sizes. The larger size is the more economical.

Lillian Gish is negotiating for film rights to "Three Wise Fools." She plans to direct it and to star in it.

William Farnum will make only two pictures for the 1934-35 season. Dustin will make six.

In the last month Goldwyn has engaged as directors Marshall Neilan, Allen Holubar, Maurice Tourneur and R. A. Walsh and signed a new contract with Rupert Hughes.

And now another film is to be made to show the world what a quiet life people lead in Hollywood at night. Jackie Coogan, Baby Peggy and Brownie should be starred.

The great advance of the movie industry is best demonstrated by comparison of the first studio with the latest.

The first was built by the Edison company in 1905. It was on pivots so that it could be swung around to follow the sun and was mounted on a truck so that it could be moved about.

In all it was 25 feet long and 20 wide, lined with tar paper. It was called the "Black Maria" by members of the company.

The tar paper prevented the filtration of light through the sides. The studio followed the sun to get the proper angle of light through the skylights, artificial lights not then being practical.

The largest studio in the history of pictures is now being constructed by Douglas Fairbanks for the filming of "Robin Hood."

It covers acres of ground. Hundreds of men are engaged in making the sets. It is equipped with an electric plant that would illuminate a fair-sized city.

Pictures sent to me by a Los Angeles correspondent tell me that the cost? So far, \$1,100,000. That figure was not given to me by a press agent. A visitor from Hollywood who is in a position to know told me.

Speaking of the old days and the present, Mary Pickford has had a six-room bungalow erected for a "dressing room." Edison's old "Black Maria" could sit down in it several times.

Doug will wear a beard as well as a mustache in "Robin Hood." He also purchased a falcon, paying \$200 for it in London. The bird will participate with armored knights in the tilts and tournaments of the play. Falconing was a great English sport in the period in which the photoplay is set.

FALSE "POPULARITY."

In New York a movie popularity contest was held. Votes were ten cents apiece, the proceeds going to charity. That was a worthy purpose but some odium attaches to the affair in that it was no gauge of popularity.

Billie Burke, who has been out of the movies two years, won the contest because her admirers spent more money. Mary Carr was second.

Edward Davis, little known to the great mass of movie fans, was first among the men. This affair was sanctioned by Bill Hays. Hence, the greater the odium.

VON STROHEIM AT WORK.

Von Stroheim has engaged many of his support in "Foolish Wives" for his next. Among them are Maude George, Dale Fuller, Casare Graves and Al Edmundson. After that Von Stroheim will make a screen version of "Casle Hubertus," a spectacular story by Ganghofer, Austrian author.

AT STUDIO KEYHOLES.

Francis Carpenter, who co-starred with Virginia Lee Corbin in "Jack and the Beanstalk," will be featured in a Century comedy.

Just a second! Sally, the comedy horse, has changed her name to Quennie.

Charles Jones is to be starred in "Trooper O'Neill," originally bought for William Farnum.

The cast for "Someone to Love" includes Madge Bellamy, Cullen Landis, Lincoln Stedman and Larry Steers.

Constance Talmadge is suing for divorce, as you probably have read, alleging her husband objects to love-making of her leading men—for screen purposes.

Thus it seems a peculiar twist of coincidence that her latest release, "The Primitive Lover," pivots on a divorce situation.

In the picture, Connie calls her husband an unromantic fish because he cannot be enthused about the fanciful romances penned by an erstwhile fiancé of Connie's, whom both believe dead.

The former fiancé shows up later and makes love to Connie, picturing the great life they might lead in the vast reaches of nature untrammelled by conventions, obtaining sustenance by slaying the playful deer that leaps from crag to crag.

Connie immediately goes for Nevada and divorce. Then into the mountains with the hero who would teach her primitive love.

The former husband waylays them and forces them to lead the primitive life in a mountain shack. He also furnishes Connie over his knee for a spanking, following the advice of an Indian chief who has won 22 wives by such methods.

The spanking and the hardships of housekeeping in the woods seem to cure Connie of her romantic longings and when she learns the divorce decree is not final she rushes to her husband's arms.

Going to prove, evidently, that many divorces might be averted if a light-headed wife were given a spanking once in a while.

After living in Hollywood several months Elinor Glyn said a movie heroine might not be content with a dashing husband after having had a dashing, handsome cinema hero make love to her.

In "The Primitive Lover" Constance Talmadge has two handsome, dashing leading men, Harrison Ford and Kenneth Harlan. Ford in the early reels is a prosaic husband who loses his wife to a more ardent wooer, winning her back by outplaying the handsome hero at his own game. If Madame Glyn is right, husbands of movie stars might keep their home fires burning by trying a bit of movie love-making now and then.

It is hardly likely Anita Stewart's husband will complain about the love-making of her leading man in "Rose of the Sea." He is Rudolph Cameron. Anita's husband. It is the first time he has played in pictures with her since their marriage, five years ago.

Getting back to "The Primitive

Lover," it is a polite comedy of exceptional merit.

It gives Constance Talmadge one of the best roles of her career and affords comedy of a high order, being at times a satire on the literature of the present day, divorce laws, court procedure and even the movie itself.

Sidney A. Franklin directed it. He

also directed Norma Talmadge in "Smilin' Through." These two productions mark him as a director of great versatility and place him in the front rank of directors of the day.

And Arbuckle films have been banned in Seattle.

It has just come out that Doug Fairbanks worked as hardware clerk in 1903. Salary, \$5 a week.

"The Bat," mystery play by Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood, will be filmed by Oliver Morosco.

The censorship fight in Ohio grows apace. Nine distribution managers in Cleveland have been arrested because they failed to make eliminations ordered by the state board of censors.

Richard Dix, Phyllis Haver and Mae Busch have been cast for "The Christian."

Discovered! The greatest hero and heroine of the screen. They are Nanook and Nyla.

Nanook is an Eskimo. Nyla, his mate. They live their life before the camera and Robert J. Flaherty, explorer, presents it as a film drama called "Nanook of the North."

Here is a simple drama of living intensified by the utter simplicity of the life it depicts. It proves far more effective than any bit of mere acting.

Flaherty made the film when Nanook acted as his guide on a trip through the upper east coast of Hudson Bay and Ungava Peninsula, the northernmost point of Labrador.

There natives subsist entirely on

D. W. GRIFFITH

presents

'Orphans of the Storm'

Adapted from

'The Two Orphans'

by arrangement with Kate Claxton.

With Lillian and Dorothy Gish

The Beat of a Thousand Hoofs

A thunderbolt of men, horses and dust, as the fearless Danton, fiery leader of an outraged people against an outrageous monarchy, rides to save the honor of France! Through Paris streets he hurls himself, his followers on his heels! A tornado of tossing shapes! Naked swords aloft in hands of dare-devils atop plunging steeds! Through scattering populace and hostile hordes to the glistening axe of the guillotine! Always thrill upon thrill!

A Love Supreme

Renouncing his love on the guillotine platform, he places the woman of his heart, whom he has rescued from the axe, in the arms of the man her heart has chosen.



OGDEN THEATRE

Today—4:15, 6:30 and 8:45 p. m.

Admission—Adults, 55c; Kiddies, 25c

Harold Fleming's Orchestra

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an animal diet. Nanook harpoons the seal and walrus for the raw meat on which his wife and kiddies subsist. The entire family travels many miles in search of this game.

At night the family is sheltered in an igloo—a house of snow with a piece of ice for a window. It is erected in one hour.

In this home Nyla tends her dimpled babe. Naked, it gurgles its delight in the joy of living. And the temperature is below freezing even in an igloo.

Doubtless you have read of this life

Summer Beauty Hint

Hair is by far the most conspicuous thing about us and is probably the most easily damaged by bad or careless treatment. If we are very careful in hair washing, we will have virtually no hair troubles. An especially fine shampoo for this weather, one that brings out all the natural beauty of the hair, that dissolves and entirely removes all dandruff, excess oil and dirt, can easily be used at trifling expense by simply dissolving a teaspoonful of cantharox (which you can get at any drugist's), in a cup of hot water. This makes a full cup of shampoo liquid, enough so it is easy to apply it to all the hair instead of just the top of the head. This chemically dissolves all impurities and creates a soothing, cooling lather. Rinsing leaves the scalp spotlessly clean, soft and pliant, while the hair takes on the glossy richness of natural color, also a fluffiness which makes it seem much heavier than it is. After cantharox shampoo, arranging the hair is a pleasure.—Advertisement.

in books, but the drama of it all escapes cold type. The movie gives the story vitality. Here is a brave father taking out a living in desolation, facing the fiercest elements of nature.

Here is a mother with the hardihood to follow her mate through all his adventures, to bear and nurture children where life seems, after all, to be a futile thing.

Certainly the Eskimo is the optimist eternal.

This Eskimo drama furnishes an interesting comparison with the "sheik" pictures that are now proving so popular. The popularity of the latter is due in great measure to their romantic settings.

The romance is created mostly by depicting a life that lies entirely without the common experience of the movie fan and much of that is created in the imaginations of writers and directors.

"Nanook of the North," a true document, proves romance may bloom and flourish in the frigidities of the Arctic as well as in the sandy welter of the equator.

You will stop to ponder on the perplexities of the general scheme of life when you see "Nanook of the North." And if it gives you something to think about after you have left the theater it will have accomplished more than the average movie of today.

HORSE SENSE.

In "North of the Rio Grande" Charles Ogle raises his glass in a toast to two horses, guests of honor. The horses arch their necks, prick up their ears and seem to pay attention. They seem far more gracious than any human recipient of a toast I ever have seen in the movies.

STUDIO SNAPSHOTS.

Alpheus Lincoln is the male in "Determination."

The next Urban movie chat a house being built in 24 hours.

Here is a mother with the hardihood to follow her mate through all his adventures, to bear and nurture children where life seems, after all, to be a futile thing.

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"The Son of a Sheik," a burlesque on these hot-blooded features, is being made by Christie.

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